

## **KAREN HORNADAY PARK COMMITTEE**

### ***FIELD NOTES from WORK SESSION TOUR OF KAREN HORNADAY PARK on August 10, 2011***

Members Present: Robert Archibald – Chairman, Ralph Broshes, Deb Cox, Beth Cumming, Tricia Lillibridge, Philip Needham, Jack Wiles, Angie Otteson – Park Staff

#### **Field Notes:**

The purpose of the work session was to familiarize the committee with the park master plan/site plan, review what a preliminary engineering study would accomplish, understand the park drainage problems, and provide an overview of the needs for the ball fields, playground, day-use area, and use or relocation of the red shed.

#### **Entrance Road:**

Robert led the park committee to the south end of the entrance road to view the grade, the alignment, and profile of the adjacent fill material. Robert outlined that the preliminary engineering work would address the feasibility and cost of relocating the entrance road and establishing a parking plan. Benefits of the realignment include a net gain in parking with an organized parking area that can be secured, safety of pedestrian movements, separation of overnight traffic from day-use traffic, aesthetics, and restoration of the Woodard riparian corridor.

Phil asked why the existing road could not be used and the potential high cost of road realignment. It was pointed out that the preliminary engineering work will help answer that question and the option to retain the existing entrance road may then be addressed. Beth said that if the existing entrance road is to be retained then the road corridor needs to be contoured and landscaped with terraced parking. Robert expressed a concern that there should be a safe pathway citing the death that occurred along the Girdwood road from lack of a pedestrian pathway.

#### **Drainage:**

Phil said that he was able to have an on-site meeting with Carey Meyers (invited to the park tour but could not make it). Phil proposes that much of the drainage problems associated with the ball fields could be solved if the existing two drainage basin traps were lowered about a foot. Robert pointed out that the drains have standing water on top of the drains in the spring so there may be blockage in the drainpipe, the pipe may be at the wrong elevation, or the pipe may not be buried deep enough to prevent freezing. Further investigation of how the drainpipe functions is needed along with some elevation points – could be from a hand-held survey theolite instrument.

Jack and Deb expressed concerns that the drainage along the playground slope would not become a ditch or a cut bank thus limiting the use of the slope as part of the playground design process. There will be a playground design day event on Sept. 9.

The Park Committee then looked at 'Lake Hornaday' – the perennial body of standing water in the south day use area. Phil suggested that a portion of the berm between the day use area and the lower ball field be lowered so that water can drain. There could be a drainage basin to help control the runoff. Material excavated from the berm could be placed in the low area of the day use area. The amount and suitability of excavated material is unknown without an on-site elevation survey. Erosion or the creation of an erosion ravine would need to be prevented. Traffic access would need to be maintained –may necessitate a culvert. Jack pointed out that the entire day-use area need to have imported top soil and reseeded.

**Day Use Area Expansion:**

Phil questioned the loss of parking from expanding the day-use area to connect to the playground area. Jack mentioned that it was part of the adopted master plan. To compensate for parking, the red shed was to be removed to allow additional parking while gaining additional recreational green space adjacent to the picnic shelter and playground. The expanded day-use area is considered an enhancement of the playground and the open space lawn area for recreational activities.

**Red Shed:**

The Park Committee did a cursory inspection of the red shed interior. The building is full of various materials, much of which appears to be surplus or no longer usable. Angie pointed out a series of exercise stations that have never been installed (a good location may be along the Spit trail).

The structural integrity of the building needs to be assessed – snow and wind load, beams, city code, foundation, exterior, and drainage. Phil suggested that the south side of the building could become an open bay and the building adaptively reused as a community building. Beth mentioned that the building dates to the fair grounds and is considered historic. Before any action is taken to remove or adaptively reuse the building a structural assessment should be made and an assessment of the buildings historic value.

**Next Steps:**

1. Robert will meet with Carey Meyers to determine what actions the City may take to address the drainage plan as proposed by Phil.
2. Robert will meet with Carey Meyers to determine what actions the City is taking to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to conduct the preliminary engineering analysis.
3. Phil will provide the Park Committee a list of Little League priorities with estimated costs and how those priorities may be phased in with funding strategies.
4. Deb Cox or Miranda Wise will keep the Park Committee informed of the outcome of Design Day.
5. Deb requested that the Park Commission reaffirm that the expanded day use area may be considered as part of the playground design planning.

Notes recorded by Jack Wiles